

301: Systematic Theology

Week 4 - The Spiritual Realm

C.S. Lewis

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God...

1 Sam 28:12-13

When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul." **13** The king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a god [elohim] coming up out of the earth."

Psalm 82:1

God [elohim] has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods [elohim] he holds judgment.

a. Angels _____

Psalm 91:11-12

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits (referring to angels) sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

b. Angels _____

Psalm 148:1-2

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

Isaiah 6:2-3

2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Luke 2:13-14

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

c. Angels _____

Psalm 103:20

Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

Luke 1:26-30

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luke 2:9

9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

d. Angels _____¹

Psalm 82:1

God (elohim) has taken his place in the divine council, in the midst of the gods (elohim) He renders judgment

¹ “They perform many roles and go by many titles; they are the sons of God or host of heaven who celebrate God’s decisions (Job 38:4-7), dialogue about his policies (Job chs. 1-2 and 1 Kings 22:19-23). Moses and the prophets tell us that some of these beings were behind the rebellion of Babylon in Genesis 11 (Deuteronomy 32:7-1 and Isaiah 14:1-23), where they lured the nations into worshiping them, leading to corruption and injustice (Deuteronomy 4:19-20 and Psalm 82). These are the spiritual powers that Jesus confronted in his mission to bring God’s Kingdom (Luke 4:1-13 and 10:17-20), and when Jesus was raised from death, he assumed authority over all of these powers (Matthew 28:18-20 Ephesians 1:18-21). Jesus’ victory over these powers will be completed when he returns to do away with the ultimate enemy: death itself (1 Corinthians 15:22-27). So the divine council is a really important biblical theme that helps us understand the cosmic significance of the story of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.” *The Divine Council, The Bible Project*

Psalm 89:5-7

O Lord, the heavens praise your amazing deeds, as well as your faithfulness in the angelic assembly. **6** For who in the skies can compare to the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings, **7** a God who is honored in the great angelic assembly (his divine council)

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” **2** And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” **4** But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:14

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

Isaiah 14

12 “How you are fallen from heaven,
O Day Star, son of Dawn!
How you are cut down to the ground,
you who laid the nations low!
13 You said in your heart,
‘I will ascend to heaven;
above the stars of God
I will set my throne on high;
I will sit on the mount of assembly (mount of assembly...divine council/Eden imagery)
in the far reaches of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.’
15 But you are brought down to Sheol,
to the far reaches of the pit.

a. Demons _____

b. Demons _____

c. Demons _____ (seen most notably in the Old Testament)

1 John 3:8

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

a. Satan _____

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Luke 22:3-6

3 Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. **4** He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. **5** And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. **6** So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

Matthew 16:23

23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Acts 5:1-3

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"

b. Satan _____

Matthew 4:8-9

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Ephesians 2:1-2

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience

2 Corinthians 4:4

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ephesians 6:12

...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

Matthew 16:13,18

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi...

18 “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

1. _____

2. _____

James 4:7

resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

3. _____

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What stood out to you from the lesson?
- What's been your previous experience or impression on this topic?
- Why is it important to remember that we don't hold to spiritual dualism? What does that mean for us practically?

CASE STUDIES

How would you handle each of the following scenarios? What are the possible theological beliefs behind their statements/actions? What passages could you point them to?

- Someone in LifeGroup says they feel worthless and unloved. When they feel this way they don't have a desire to spend time with Jesus and they tend to isolate themselves from others.
- A LifeGroup member says they don't see the point in regularly meditating on the Bible. They grew up in church, they know all the Bible stories, they're pretty moral, and they follow along with a Verse of the Day app.

VERSE TO REMEMBER

James 4:7

...resist the devil and he will flee from you.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

[*Screwtape Letters* by CS Lewis](#)

["Spiritual Beings" series by The Bible Project](#)

[Kickoff Weekend 2019 series by Midtown Downtown](#)

[*The Unseen Realm* by Michael Heiser](#)